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Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 GUATEM 00726 042118Z

67
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00 AID-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 FDRE-00 HEW-06 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02

PRS-01 DHA-02 SCA-01 SCSE-00 EB-07 IO-11 SS-15 NSC-05

IGA-02 AGR-10 PC-05 ARAE-00 /090 W
---------- 051183
O 041900Z FEB 76
FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 9891

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 0726

FOR AID/PHA/FDRC

REQUEST DEPARTMENT PASS IMMEDIATE TO SAN SALVADOR, TEGUCIGALPA
AND USCINCSO

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: SWEL GT
SUBJ: GUATEMALA EARTHQUAKE

1. EMBSSY TOLD BY FAO REP THAT UNDP RESREP HAS BEEN TOLD
BY GOG THAT THEY ESTIMATE 800 DEAD AND SEVERAL THOUSAND INJURED.
GOG HAS OFFICIALLY REQUESTED MEDICAL AND EMERGENCY FOOD SUPPLIES
FROM PAHO AND WORLD FOOD PROGRAM. GUATEMALAN RADIO
STATIONS ARE BROADCASTING APPEALS FROM MAJOR PUBLIC HOSPITALS
FOR BLOOD.

2. TWO AMERICANS LIVING IN ANTIGUA REPORT THAT ALL MAJOR ROADS
INTO ANTIGUA(POPULATION 20,000) ARE IMPASSABLE DUE TO LAND-
SLIDES. THEY MANAGED TO GET OUT VIA SMALL ROUNDABOUT UNPAVED
ROADS. THEY REPORT 6 DEAD AND 50 INJURED IN ANTIGUA HOSPITALS.
THEY ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY AMERICANS AMONG THOSE DEAD OR INJURED.
THERE HAS BEEN SUBSTANTIAL PROPERTY DAMAGE IN ANTIGUA AND PART
OF THE FACADE OF THE CATHEDRAL HAS FALLEN INTO THE MAIN SQUARE.
HOWEVER, ANTIGUA DOES HAVE ELECTRIC POWER.
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3. EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT CATHOLIC RELIEF ORGANIZATION CARITAS, IS ASKING EACH GUATEMALAN DIOCESE FOR AN ESTIMATE OF ITS NEEDS. IT HAS ALREADY ASKED COSTA RICAN CARITAS FOR TENTS FOR EMERGENCY HOUSING. RADIO ALSO REPORTS THAT EL SALVADOR GOVERNMENT AND RED CROSS ARE ORGANIZING RELIEF ASSISTANCE TO GUATEMALA.

4. COMMENT: FIGURE OF 800 DEAD MAY WELL BE TOO HIGH FOR GUATEMALA CITY, BUT, IN LIGHT FRAGMENTARY INFORMATION SO FAR AVAILABLE, IT IS POSSIBLE IT MAY NOT BE FAR OFF AS ESTIMATE FOR COUNTRY AS A WHOLE. WE STILL HAVE NO INFORMATION ON SITUATION IN PUERTO BARRIOS.
ANDREWS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDEES.

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NNN

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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